



CITY OF BERKLEY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023 | www.berkleymich.org | (248) 658-3300 | Facebook: [@CityofBerkeley](https://www.facebook.com/CityofBerkeley)



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Matthew Baumgarten

Happy March Berkley!

Spring is a time of renewal. As the snow melts away it provides the needed water to support the growth of plants as they push their way back out of the ground.

Spring can also be sloppy and muddy. The season can sometimes feel like it takes one step forward and two backward. It can be 60 degrees one day and then snow for three straight days.

Yet, year after year, all lingering vestiges of the harshness of winter are put behind us and the summer sun shines once again to restore our energy.

Our community finds itself at a similar point in its cycle. Like the winter temperatures, our operating and public safety millage rates have fallen and need a spring-like restoration. In this metaphor, the voters of our community will have the opportunity to decide the outcome of the city's millage rate on May 2, 2023.

It is incredibly important to me that everyone is informed when they vote this coming May. We are asking the community for a reinvestment in the city funds that Berkley has lost over the past decade-plus due to the State's Headlee Amendment and Proposal A. This decision by voters would move the city's millage rate for our operating and police/fire from the 9.5419 mills we have now to 13 mills. A number that our founders and city charter originally allocated to run our city. This increase of 3.4581 mills would mean each individual home paying more but it would also mean \$2.5 million in revenues for just the first year which would be invested directly in our community.

We as an administration cannot advocate for an outcome but myself and the hardworking public servants who serve you can spend the next few months showcasing all that we have accomplished with the resources we have now and all that we could do with more. I kindly ask that you give us your time to make that case. Ultimately the future of our community is always up to the residents. Our goal is to ensure that you are properly informed about what this millage request is and how it impacts you in all aspects of your life; in investments, in services, and in community satisfaction.

– Matt Baumgarten

STRAIGHT FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

(248) 658-3310 | Email: clerk@berkleymich.net | Monday - Friday (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, closed for lunch from 1-2 PM)

2023 Elections ... #BerkleyVotes

The City of Berkley will be holding a special election on **May 2, 2023**. To learn more about what's on the ballot in May, please visit www.berkleymich.org/millage.

Anyone interested in becoming an election worker is invited to contact the City Clerk's Office via email at clerk@berkleymich.net, calling 248-658-3310, or stopping by City Hall during regular business hours.

- Registered voters in the State of Michigan are urged to apply along with students 16 and older.

Absentee ballots for the Special Election will be mailed at the end of March. If you did not receive an absentee ballot by the end of the month or would like one, please contact the Clerk's Office.

All voting precincts will be open on election day from 7 am to 8 pm on May 2nd.

New for the May 2 Special Election

With the passage of Proposal 22-2, return postage will be applied to outgoing election mail. Save your stamp if you are planning on mailing it in this election. Also, election mail can always be placed in our secure, 24-7 drop box at the entrance of City Hall.

For all election-related needs contact the Clerk's Office by calling 248-658-3310 or via email at clerk@berkleymich.net.

Learn more about voting in Berkley at www.berkleymich.org/vote.



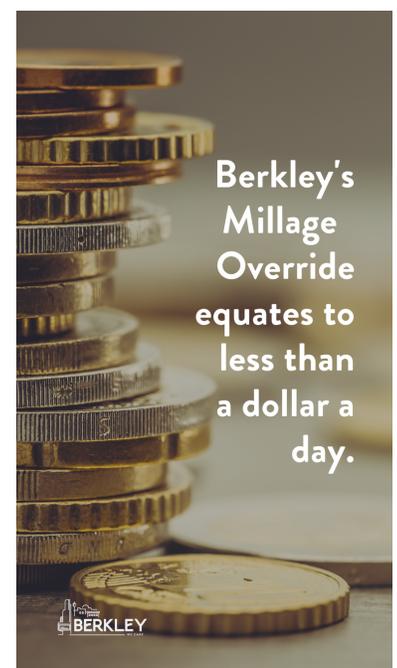
BERKLEY'S HEADLEE OVERRIDE MILLAGE

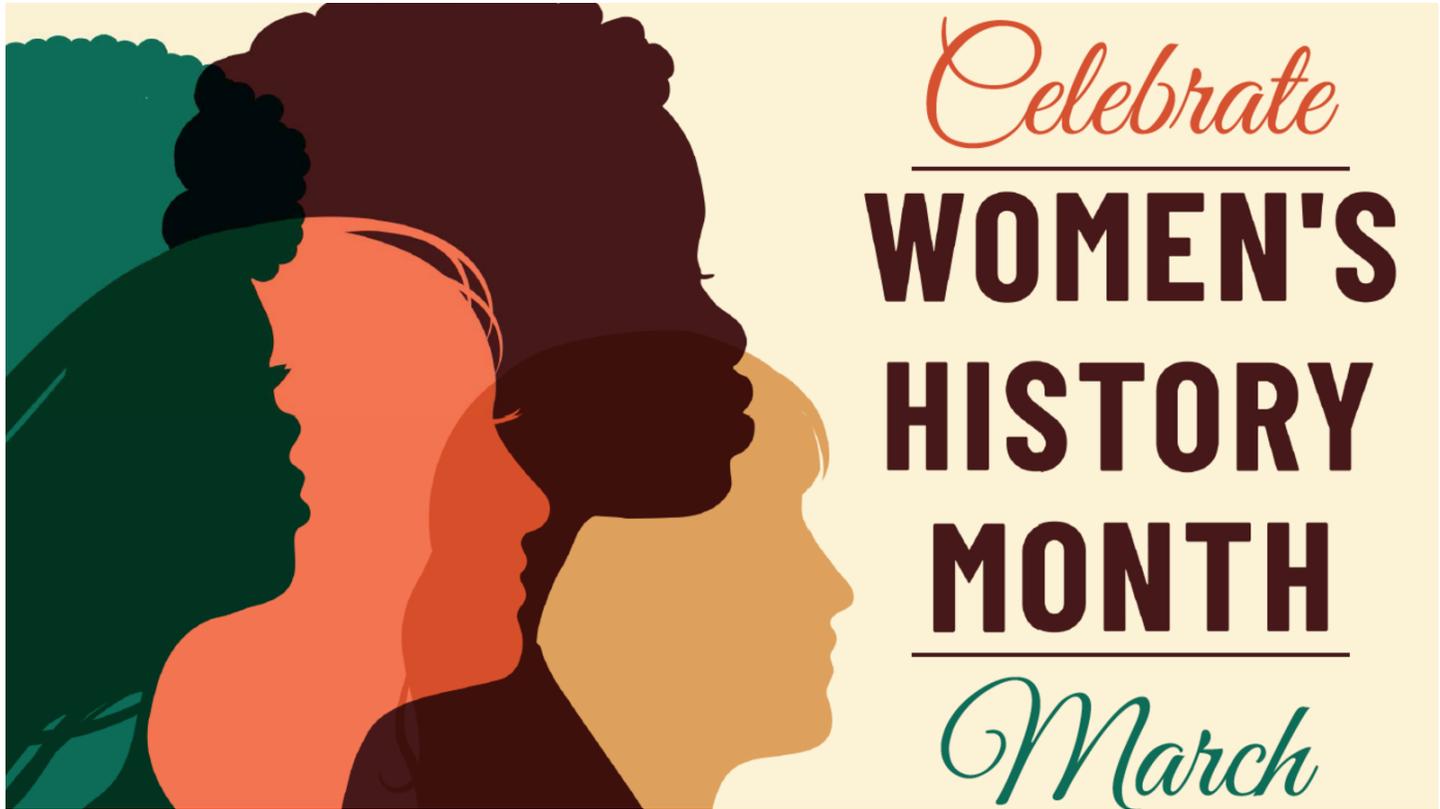
Due to Michigan's state laws, specifically, Headlee and Proposal A, Berkley has lost the ability to levy 3.4581 of those mills over the past decade. The city has reached the point where we can no longer maintain service amenities with the current funding structure.

It is estimated that if the voters were to approve the Headlee Override at 3.4581 mills, it would raise approximately \$2.5 million within the first year for Berkley. This millage is to restore and specifically set up for the city's general operating fund. The general operating fund is what finances all of our departments, capital investments, and infrastructure.

If voters approve the Headlee Override millage, residents will see this on their Summer 2023 taxes. The tax dollars levied by restoring the millage will aid in continuing the full package of services residents experience now and the development of capital and infrastructure projects that have been delayed.

We want you to be able to see how this will individually impact you. Thus, we have developed a tax calculator using the latest tax assessments (provided by Oakland County). Learn more at www.berkleymich.org/millage.





PARKS AND RECREATION

(248) 658-3470 | Email: parcs@berkleymich.net | Facebook: [@BerkleyParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/BerkleyParksandRec)



March Programs

Youth Programs:

- Drop-in Play
- Sanchin Ryu Karate
- Jump-A-Rama Gymnastics
- Tumble Tots
- Mad Science
- Indoor Lacrosse
- Self Defense for Children
- Learn to Draw, Grandparents & Me and Crafts with Samantha

Adult Programs:

- Zumba
- Sanchin Ryu Karate
- Beginner Tai Chi
- Self Defense for Women
- PiYo
- Yoga Blend

Senior Programs:

- Chair Yoga
 - Date: Monday - ongoing
 - Time: 11:00 am -12:00 pm
 - Cost: \$7 drop-in
- Senior Fitness
 - Date: Tuesdays and Fridays - ongoing
 - Time: 9:30-10:30 am
 - Cost: \$2 per class, drop-in
- Zumba Gold
 - Date: Monday - ongoing
 - Time: 10:00- 10:50 am
 - Cost: \$12 drop-in

Senior Trip:

- Hollywood Casino at Greektown
 - Date: Thursday, March 23rd
 - Time: 9:30 am
 - Cost: \$15
- Senior Lunch Trip
 - PF Changs
 - Date: Friday, March 31st
 - Time: 11:15 am
 - Cost: \$8 (lunch on your own)

Senior Event:

- Trivia Tuesday:
 - Location: The Community Center
 - Date: Tuesday, March 14th
 - Time: 12:30 pm
 - Cost: \$10 (lunch provided)

For more information on all programs and to register, please visit recreation.berkleymich.org

Thank you to everyone who came out to WinterFest

We are so grateful for the amazing turnout we had at WinterFest this year. This was our largest attendance at our annual winter event yet! Over 1,000 people stopped by to celebrate winter outside the Community Center!

With Spring upon us, we are excited to begin preparations for our busiest season yet, Summer! Next up, Spring/Summer programming, Day Camp, Berkley Beats, and SummerFest. We hope to see you there!



Summer Day Camp

Early Bird Full Summer Registration is NOW OPEN!

- Grades: K-8 (AM/PM Extended care available)
- Dates: 8 weeks, June 20 – August 10*
 - *no camp 7/3, 7/4
- Weekly registration options will be available sometime in March

For more information, pricing, and to register visit:

recreation.berkleymich.org



BERKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

(248) 658-3440 | www.berkley.lib.mi.us | Facebook: [@BerkleyPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/BerkleyPublicLibrary)



#SAVETHEDATE Friends Book Sale

The Friends of Berkley Public Library will host an indoor book sale on **Saturday, March 18 from 10 am to 3 pm** at the library.

Join the Friends of the Berkley Public Library for an indoor book sale! Lots of quality items are available for purchase.

Proceeds from the sale support the library's programs and events. Donate what you think is fair for your purchase. Cash or PayPal is accepted. Thanks for your support!



Featured March Programs

Midjourney: Artificial Intelligence Makes Art

Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Join Henry Birdseye to learn about making art with your computer and Midjourney Artificial Intelligence. Everyone can make beautiful art pieces! Register at <http://berkleylib.evanced.info/signup/calendar>.

Berkley Fiction Writers Group

Saturday, March 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Calling all fiction writers! This new group will provide an opportunity for fiction writers to gather, share their work, discuss processes, and provide some critiques! Register at <http://berkleylib.evanced.info/signup/calendar>.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS MARCH MEETINGS

Please visit our [calendar page](#) on our City website for more details and to stay up-to-date with all our boards & commissions.

MARCH 6:

- 7:00 PM - City Council

MARCH 7:

- 7:00 PM - Millage Public Information Session @ Berkley Public Library (3155 Coolidge Hwy.)

MARCH 8:

- 8:30 AM - Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Meeting
- 7:00 PM - Citizen's Engagement Advisory Committee Meeting
- 7:00 PM - Technology Advisory Committee Meeting

MARCH 10 - 19: Leprechauns Scavenger Hunt

- Learn more at downtownberkley.com/downtownleprechauns

MARCH 13:

- 7:00 PM - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - **CANCELLED**

MARCH 15:

- 7:00 PM - Library Board Meeting

MARCH 16:

- 6:30 PM - Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

MARCH 16 - 19: Leprechauns Day Out

- Learn more at downtownberkley.com/downtownleprechauns

MARCH 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day

MARCH 18:

- 10:00 AM - Millage Public Information Session @ Berkley Community Center (2400 Robina Ave)
- 12:00 PM - Downtown Berkley Lucky Leprechauns Block Party @ O'Maras
 - Learn more at downtownberkley.com/downtownleprechauns

MARCH 20:

- 4:00 PM - Public Safety Pension Board Meeting
- 7:00 PM - City Council Meeting

MARCH 21:

- 7:00 PM - Planning Commission Meeting

MARCH 27:

- 7:00 PM - Tree Board Meeting